NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

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INFORMATION WANTED ON EFFECT OF FRENCH QUOTA SYSTEM

The French Government has gradually extended its quota system on imports of different classes of goods, among which are various canned products. The Association desires information as to the effects of these restrictions on canners and exporters of canned foods to the French market. Firms who are, or have been, interested in the French market are requested to send the Association such data as will enable it to summarize the situation and take appropriate action on behalf of the industry.

HEARINGS BEGUN ON COMPENSATING DUTY BILL

Hearings on the bill (H. R. 8688) introduced by Representative Hawley, which would equalize tariff entries by compensating for depreciation in foreign currencies, were begun on Thursday, May 12, by the House Ways and Means Committee. At the first day's hearings evidence in support of the bill was presented by representatives of the iron and steel industry, the china clay industry, the lumber industry, and the fish canning industry were heard.

Dr. E. D. Clark, representing the salmon canners of the Northwest, in his testimony stated that Japan, Siberia and Canada are the principal foreign competitors, and that the drop of 32 per cent in the value of the yen had wiped out the protection afforded by the 25 per cent duty in the tariff act.

PRESIDENT VETOES AMENDMENT OF TARIFF ACT

President Hoover's veto of the bill (H. R. 6662) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 was sustained by the House on May 11 by a vote of 178 to 166. The general provisions of the bill were noted in the Information Letter for April 30. Among the objections to the bill, as cited by the President in his veto message, were the uncertainty it may convey as to its purpose; its practical destruction of the flexible tariff provisions; the conflict between the provisions for reciprocal trade agreements and other proposals in the bill.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN APRIL

Preliminary figures on the value of department store sales show a considerably larger increase from March to April than the estimated seasonal amount. The Federal Reserve Board's index, which makes allowance both for number of business days and for usual seasonal changes, including changes in the date of Easter, was 81 in April on the basis of the 1923-1925 average as 100, compared with 78 in February and 72 in March. In comparison with a year ago the value of sales for April, according to the preliminary figures, was 24 per cent smaller. The aggregate for the first four months of the year was 21 per cent smaller.

ORDER ON CRUDE DRUGS AND SPICES MODIFIED

The Department of Agriculture has modified its order of April 29 regarding releases of crude drugs and crude spices found to contain excess matter, organic or inorganic, and therefore found to be adulterated under the Federal Food and Drugs Act.

"When the order of April 29 was issued, the Department had in mind only those crude spices included in the U. S. Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary, the standards by which drugs are judged in the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drugs Act," it is stated. "The Department did not intend that the trade should interpret the order as including all crude spices which ordinarily go into the manufacture of condiments, to which the Department will give later consideration."

HEAVY DECREASE IN INTENDED ACREAGE OF GREEN LIMA BEANS AND BEETS

Reductions of 41 per cent in the acreage of green lima beans for canning and of 31 per cent in beets, as compared with the acreage harvested in 1931, are indicated by reports issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on May 12. The reports follow:

Green Lima Beans

According to reports from 44 firms which grew 86 per cent of the total acreage of green lima beans estimated for canning or manufacture in 1931, the intended acreage for 1932 is nearly 41 per cent below the harvested acreage of 1931. If these intentions are carried out, a total of 17,020 acres will be planted in 1932 compared with the estimates of 28,760 acres harvested in 1931, 30,980 acres harvested in 1930, and 24,570 acres harvested in 1929. The usual loss between planted and harvested acreage appears to be around 3 per cent.

The following table shows, by states, the estimates of intended acreage for 1932 compared with estimates of harvested acreage for 1929, 1930 and

1931. The totals shown for the various years are believed to be reasonably complete estimates of the total acreages grown for canning.

State	Harvested Acreage 1929	1930	1931	Intended Acreage Per cent of 1931 harvested	1932
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Per cent*	*Acres*
New Jersey	1,900	1,950	1,450	13.8	200
Delaware	7,400	9,300	8,400	42.9	3,600
Maryland	3,230	4,000	3,700	52.7	1,950
Virginia	3,270	4,480	5,340	110.9	5,920
Ohio	1,490	1,020	1,740	7.5	130
Michigan	3,740	5,340	4,000	44.8	1,790
Minnesota	800	970	600	100.0	600
Other States*	2,740	3,920	3,530	80.2	2,830
Total	24,570	30,980	28,760	59.2	17,020

* "Other States" include Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Beets

Reports from 52 firms which grew two-thirds of the total acreage of beets estimated for canning in 1931, indicate that the intended acreage of canning beets in 1932 is 31 per cent below the acreage estimated for harvest in 1931. If these intentions are carried out, the estimated total of planted acreage in 1932 will be 3,280 acres compared with estimates of 4,750 acres harvested in 1931, 10,450 acres harvested in 1930, and 7,090 acres harvested in 1929. The usual loss between planted and harvested acreage appears to be 4 or 5 per cent.

The table below shows, by states, the estimates of intended acreage for 1932 compared with harvested acreages in 1929, 1930 and 1931. The totals shown for the various years are believed to be reasonably complete estimates of the total acreages of beets grown for canning.

State	Harvested Acreage 1929	1930	1931	Intended Acreage Per cent of 1931 harvested	1932
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Per cent*	*Acres*
New York	1,640	2,070	750	133.3	1,000
New Jersey	900	900	300	33.3	100
Indiana	280	400	220	140.9	310
Michigan	450	850	510	49.0	250
Wisconsin	2,100	3,300	1,800	44.4	800
Colorado	210	510	140	71.4	100
Washington	180	200	70	114.3	80
Oregon	590	600	180	88.9	160
Other States*	740	1,620	780	61.5	480
Total	7,090	10,450	4,750	69.1	3,280

*"Other States" include Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

TRUCK CROP SHIPMENTS

Carlot movement of fruits and vegetables is increasing as the season advances. Slightly over 16,000 cars of 31 products moved during the week ended May 7, but even so the output was nearly 5,000 cars short of the corresponding record for 1931.

Green corn began to move from Florida last week. Forwardings of green peas increased to 190 cars, chiefly from California, with lighter movement from the Carolinas and Mississippi. Only 140 carloads of spinach were shipped.

By this time last year the arrivals of tomatoes from Mexico had nearly stopped, but during the past week, receipts of Mexican stock increased further to 605 cars. Florida output held at 350 cars for the seven-day period, and the season opened in Imperial Valley and southern Texas.

Asparagus movement from California was down to about 115 cars, while South Carolina originated 105, Washington 25, Illinois and Georgia a dozen cars each, and North Carolina one carload.

A tremendous increase occurred in movement of Florida snap beans. That state forwarded 365 cars and Texas became active with 40 cars. The season also opened in Louisiana. Total shipments were five times those of the week before.

CONDITION OF PEACHES

The condition of peaches in the 10 early states is reported on May 1 at 34.2 per cent as compared with 70.9 per cent on May 1 last year and the 5-year average (1924-28) condition of 64.3 per cent. On the basis of the present condition and assuming average conditions from May 1 to harvest, about 8,600,000 bushels of peaches are in prospect for the 1932 season in these states. This would be the smallest crop produced in these states in recent years. While the 1932 crop will undoubtedly be smaller than average, it is yet early in the season and much can happen before harvest to improve or further reduce the prospective 1932 peach harvest in these 10 states.

CONDITION OF COMPETITIVE TRUCK CROPS

Following are excerpts from reports by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates on truck crops:

ASPARAGUS.—The production forecast for the commercial crop of asparagus for market and for manufacture in the United States this year is 3 per cent larger than the 1931 production. The acreage available for cutting this year is 8 per cent greater than that cut in 1931, but the indications are that yields will be slightly below last year's yields.

GREEN PEAS.—The estimated acreage for the first group of intermediate states is the same as the 1931 acreage but the very low yields expected in all states in the group indicate a production only half as large as that in 1931. On the other hand, the forecast for the second group of intermediate states is 37 per cent above the 1931 production. Yields are expected to be much higher than in 1931. The total indicated production for the

four groups forecast to date is about the same as the estimated production for the same states in 1931.

PEPPERS.—An increase of 14 per cent over 1931 is indicated by the production forecast for the spring crop of peppers in Florida. The acreage is almost one-half greater than last spring's acreage but the average yield per acre is expected to be one-fifth less than in 1931. Intention-to-plant estimates point to acreage decreases of 1 per cent in the second early group of states and 12 per cent in the intermediate group. If these intentions materialize, the total acreage for the five groups reported to date will be 2 per cent smaller than the acreage in these states in 1931.

SNAP BEANS.—A production more than one-fifth larger than last year's crop is forecast for the second early group of states. Higher yields are expected in all states in the group except South Carolina, and the indicated average for the group is slightly higher than the 1931 yield. There is a reported increase of 17 per cent in the acreage.

SPINACH.—There are 2,684,000 bushels of spinach forecast for the second early group of states this year as compared with 3,864,000 bushels in 1931, a decrease of 31 per cent. Lower yields are expected in all states in this group except Illinois and New Jersey. Intention-to-plant reports from Colorado indicate an increase of 40 per cent over last year's acreage. The total acreage for the four groups of states reported to date is 9 per cent greater than the estimated acreage for the same states in 1931.

BUSINESS INDICATORS

(Weeks ended Saturday; weekly average 1923-1925=100)

	1932			1931		1930	
	May 7	April 30	April 23	May 9	May 2	May 10	May 3
Composite Index:*							
New York Times	57.6	†58.5	77.8	79.2	94.0	95.7	
Business Week	56.3	†56.7	79.8	79.4	96.9	94.2	
Freight car loadings	57.8	58.7	78.0	†80.8	97.2	98.3	
Wholesale prices (Fisher's):							
All commodities	61.6	61.8	61.8	72.0	73.1	89.0	89.7
Agricultural products	43.7	44.2	44.4	61.9	62.8	94.4	94.2
Non-agricultural products	65.7	65.8	65.5	74.8	76.1	86.1	87.5
Bank debits outside N. Y. City	78.8	63.4	72.4	112.4	95.1	136.3	120.4
Bond prices	82.6	84.5	84.9	106.8	106.3	106.1	106.0
Stock prices	50.5	52.7	53.4	143.8	141.2	228.6	233.0
Interest rates:							
Call money	60.6	60.6	60.6	36.4	36.4	76.6	92.1
Time money	45.7	46.6	55.3	45.7	45.7	91.4	97.1
Business failures	147.7	164.6	162.9	155.3	130.7	129.0	116.0

* Relative to a computed normal taken as 100.
† Revised.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended April 30	554,012	199,617	185,023	169,372
Previous week	562,380	204,324	185,119	172,937
Corresponding week, 1931	774,742	312,419	227,132	235,191
Corresponding week, 1930	942,674	378,397	250,862	313,415

AUSTRALIAN CANNED FRUIT EXPORTS

According to the American trade commissioner at Sydney, this season's exports of canned fruit from Australia (cases of 24 No. 2½'s) were as follows: Apricots, 182,000; peaches, 550,-

000; pears, 300,000. Exports of all varieties to England totaled 400,000; Canada, 20,000; New Zealand, 75,000; other countries, 15,000.

CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS IN 1931

The output of canned fishery products in the United States and Alaska in 1931 had a value of $62,948,791, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. The Bureau's summary of the output, by commodities, is as follows:

Products	Number of plants	Standard cases	Pounds	Value
Canned products:				
Salmon—				
United States	50	1,336,234	64,139,232	$8,986,308
Alaska	116	5,403,811	259,382,928	29,096,898
Sardines—				
Maine	27	885,408	22,135,200	2,647,187
California	22	1,713,407	82,243,536	4,715,089
Tuna and tunalike fishes	15	1,216,976	29,207,424	7,279,392
Alewives	16	34,620	1,661,760	78,973
Alewife roe	31	32,740	1,571,520	132,073
Shad	4	747	35,856	2,091
Shad roe	9	2,100	100,800	63,000
Mackerel	8	102,392	4,914,816	246,848
Fish flakes	5	28,486	1,367,328	514,553
Fish cakes, balls, etc	7	103,704	4,977,792	779,411
Cat and dog food	4	52,509	2,520,432	143,345
Salmon roe and caviar	5	3,360	161,280	30,486
Sturgeon caviar	8	4,630	222,240	609,502
Whitefish roe and caviar	6	829	39,792	23,498
Salmon eggs (for bait)	10	5,246	251,808	149,186
Miscellaneous fish, roe, and caviar	10	9,391	450,768	77,870
Oysters	43	306,278	4,594,170	963,525
Shrimp	55	821,375	13,758,649	3,982,247
Clam products	61	500,040	*11,882,625	2,256,909
Crabs	3	646	31,008	12,817
Turtle products	3	4,058	194,784	74,945
Miscellaneous shellfish	6	11,839	568,272	82,608
Total	†412	12,580,826	506,414,020	62,948,791

* "Cutout" or "Drained" weights of can contents are included for whole and minced clams, and gross can contents for chowder, bouillon, broth, juice, and cocktail.

†Exclusive of duplication.

The value of the production by states in 1931 was as follows:

States	Canned products	States	Canned products
Alaska	$29,411,309	Georgia and Florida	$937,312
California	12,529,384	Texas, Utah and Wisconsin	458,756
Washington	6,752,088	South Carolina	293,688
Maine	3,580,321	Alabama	270,886
Oregon	2,858,046	Virginia	129,551
Louisiana	1,863,897	Maryland	77,831
New York and New Jersey	1,345,155	North Carolina	22,439
Mississippi	1,283,437	Total	$62,948,791
Massachusetts and Rhode Island	1,134,091		

FRENCH EMBARGO ON SPANISH AND JAPANESE FISH

Following the admission for consumption of Spanish sardines held in warehouses in France before the 7th of January, 1932, no new quota has been reserved for that country during the second quarter (March 1 to May 31), according to the American trade commissioner at Paris. The release of warehouse stocks has continued during the past month with the result that even the quota of the third quarter (June 1 to August 31), has already been exhausted. In consequence no Spanish sardines can be imported into France until September 1 of this year.

Furthermore, canned fish imported from Japan is prohibited until December 1. Shipments which have been made prior to March 7, 1932, or goods held in bonded warehouses before this date will be admitted.

USE OF SOIL PLAQUE IN DETERMINING MINERAL DEFICIENCIES

A bacteriological method for determining mineral soil deficiencies by the use of the soil plaque is described in Bulletin No. 375 of the Colorado Experiment Station at Fort Collins. According to the authors, the bacteriological soil plaque offers a rapid and dependable method for determining phosphate and lime deficiencies in soil, and may prove equally useful for potash. The test is not only qualitative, showing the mineral elements needed, but also is sufficiently quantitative to indicate, with sufficient accuracy for all practical purposes, the amount of fertilizer to apply in the field.

CONTROL OF DAMPING-OFF OF TOMATO SEEDLINGS

The causes and control of damping-off of tomato seedlings are discussed in Bulletin No. 496 of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster. As a result of investigations, it was found that the use of a formaldehyde dust seems thoroughly practical and insures disease-free seedlings. Under most conditions, it is stated, the cost of its application does not exceed that of steam sterilization, which has proven entirely effective when properly done but which in many cases is impracticable.

MICROCHEMICAL SOIL TESTS

Bulletin No. 333 of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station entitled "Microchemical Soil Tests" will be of interest to agricultural and experimental departments in canners' organizations and to field men who are investigating the use of field tests for phosphorus, nitrate nitrogen and replaceable calcium in soils on which canning crops are grown.

BULLETIN ON PEPPER DISEASES ISSUED

Diseases of peppers in Florida are described in a 46-page illustrated booklet issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Gainesville as Bulletin No. 224. Seventeen of the more important diseases affecting peppers are discussed and recommendations made as to seed treatment, spraying and dusting.

POWDERY MILDEW DISEASE OF BEANS

The powdery mildew disease of snap beans is the subject of Bulletin No. 74 issued by the Virginia Truck Experiment Station at Norfolk. It is in the nature of a preliminary report on an investigation undertaken as the result of heavy losses from this disease in the Norfolk area in 1930.

BULLETIN ON WHOLESALE GROCERY OPERATIONS

Part IV of the Louisville Grocery Survey, which has recently been issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as Cost Distribution Study No. 14, is an intensive study of the several phases of wholesaling groceries in that market. It is divided into four parts: (1) the operations of a service wholesale house; (2) a customer analysis of a wholesale house which is both a cooperative and a service jobber; (3) a detailed comparison of operating costs of an efficient service wholesaler and an efficient cooperative wholesaler; (4) a detailed analysis of the operations of an establishment which combines the processing of food products with the merchandising function.

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